



**PATENT**

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Application No.: 09/927,175  
Filing Date: August 10, 2001  
Applicant: DiChiara  
Group Art Unit: 1762  
Examiner: Michael Barr  
Title: SURFACE PROTECTION OF POROUS CERAMIC BODIES  
Attorney Docket: 7784-000171

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Mail Stop  
Director of The United States Patent and Trademark Office  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

**Preliminary Amendment Accompanying a Request For Continued Examination**

Sir:

In reply to the Final Office Action mailed November 19, 2003, Applicants have filed a Request for Continued Examination. Accordingly, the finality of the rejection is removed.

Applicants respectfully request entry of the following amendments and consideration of the accompanying remarks before Examination on the merits. With a one-month extension of time, action is timely if taken on or before March 19, 2004.

**Amendments to the Claims** begin on page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks** begin on page 6 of this paper.